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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/678,210	09/26/2000	Robert A. Rust	10991765-1	6310

22879 7590 11/12/2003

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EXAMINER

BUI, HUNG S

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2841

DATE MAILED: 11/12/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	09/678,210	RUST ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Hung S Bui	2841	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-8 and 16-20 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 9-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.  
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____  |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)         | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Election/Restrictions*

1. Claims 1-8 and 16-20 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected claimed invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in Paper filed on 10/14/2003.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 9-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Neal et al. [US 5,967,824] in view of Scheer et al. [US 5,619,660].

Regarding claims 9 and 11-12, Neal et al. disclose a system (figure 8) comprising an array modules (421) and a plane, each module having a first connector configure to couple with a compatible corresponding second connector (301) which is mounted to the plane.

Neal et al. disclose the instant claimed invention except for the interlock device and the interlock device operation.

Scheer et al. disclose an interlock device (figure 6) comprising a securing member (623) configured to be movable to a first position to engage an associated

module and thereby arrest movement between the associated module's first connector and a corresponding second connector (640), the securing member being further configured to be movable to a second position in response to an authorization command to disengage the associate module and thereby allow relative movement between the associated module's first connector and corresponding second connector (column 9, lines 55-column 10, 23).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the interlock device of Scheer et al. with the module of Neal et al., for the purpose of preventing unauthorized removal of the modules.

Regarding claim 10, Neal et al. disclose the instant claimed invention except for the interlock device including an actuator configured to move the securing member between the first and second positions in response to the authorized command.

Scheer et al. disclose a motor/lock (625) being the interlock device.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a motor/lock for the interlock device of Neal et al., as modified by Scheer et al., for the purpose of providing remote activation/authorization.

Regarding claims 13-15, Neal et al. in view of Scheer et al. further disclose the securing member being configured to detect when the securing member being in the first or the second position and to generate a position signal thereto (column 10, line 54 – column 11, line 3).

**Conclusion**

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- Green [US 5,803,762];
- Edward MacMaster [US 3,575,482]; and
- Chabert et al. [US 5,285,355].

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hung S Bui whose telephone number is (703) 305-8024. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:30AM-6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David S Martin can be reached on (703) 308-3121. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-5115.

11/1/03  
HB

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Martin', with a stylized flourish at the end.

DAVID MARTIN  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER